

Good evening, Co-Chair Osten, Co-Chair Walker, ranking members Miner and France and the entire Appropriations Committee. My name is Johanna Schubert I am the Administrative Coordinator for the Statewide Hospital Violence Intervention Program Collaborative or CT HVIP. Today I am testifying on behalf of allocating funds that have been set aside for violence prevention services through the Department of Public Health.

I joined the Collaborative as the Administrative Coordinator in 2020. I have been fortunate over the last two years to see the goals set out at the formation of the CT HVIP come to life. These goals include forming cohorts of front-line workers to share best practices and lend support to each other, creating working groups that mirror those at the national level to help guide and shape emerging policy. Working with other hospitals and CBOs across the state to expand the breadth of evidence based services provided to residents of Connecticut.

One of my proudest moments as a member of this team was watching HB5677, now Public Act 21-36 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES UNDER MEDICAID pass unanimously through the Public Health Committee, then the house and the Senate. It was confirmation that this legislative body supports the works we are doing to define violence as a public health issue and support it as such.

The funds provided by the Department of Public Health will help sustain and grow the work we are doing currently. Long term goals for the CT HVIP include continuing to implement and use client tracking software to identify and respond to trends in violence. Train and certify more Violence Prevention Professionals to build the bench of individuals across the state who can do this work, continue to present at local and national conferences on the benefits of a partnership and work together to continue advocating for policy that will bring rates of community violence down.

I thank you for your time and consideration today. Please let me know if you have any questions about myself or the CT HVIP Collaborative

Johanna Schubert

Administrative Coordinator CT Hospital Violence Intervention Program Collaborative
Hartford COmmunities that Care

860 575-3799

jschubert@hartfordctc.org